



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for May 9, 2021

CDC Issues SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Update

(CDC - May 7, 2021) The CDC post a new science brief which has been updated to reflect current knowledge about SARS-CoV-2 transmission and reformatted to be more concise. Modes of SARS-CoV-2 transmission are now categorized as inhalation of virus, deposition of virus on exposed mucous membranes, and touching mucous membranes with soiled hands contaminated with virus. Although how we understand transmission occurs has shifted, the ways to prevent infection with this virus have not. All prevention measures that CDC recommends remain effective for these forms of transmission

The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through exposure to respiratory fluids carrying infectious virus. Exposure occurs in three principal ways: (1) inhalation of very fine respiratory droplets and aerosol particles, (2) deposition of respiratory droplets and particles on exposed mucous membranes in the mouth, nose, or eye by direct splashes and sprays, and (3) touching mucous membranes with hands that have been soiled either directly by virus-containing respiratory fluids or indirectly by touching surfaces with virus on them

Learn more: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/sars-cov-2-transmission.html>

KY COVID Update from May 8, 2021

(From [KY Daily Summary](#)) There were 544 new cases reported for Saturday, with 109 in the 18 and under category. The positivity rate was 3.32%. There were 18 new deaths recorded, with 1 new audit death, for a total of 6,578. There were 417 hospitalized, with 107 in the ICU, and 49 on vents. HPP Region 10 is the only area with ICU Capacity in Use over 80-%, and they were 86.67%.

Doctor's Offices Working to Get More Vaccine

(WKYT) Kentucky's vaccination strategy could be changing as the state sees demand for the vaccine shrink. You could see smaller clinics replace large vaccination sites, and more doctor's offices are working to get access to the vaccine.

Dr. John Richard with Bluegrass Extended Care tells us he applied months ago to get a supply of the COVID vaccine for his patients. So far, he's still waiting. He says a majority of his unvaccinated patients said they intended to get vaccinated, but they wanted it to come from his office. A poll released earlier this week by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky shows a 95% of Kentuckians trust their physician or healthcare provider. Those providers tell us they've been dispelling a lot of myths about the COVID vaccine.

State leaders have said they understand how important it is to get the vaccine to family doctors. "We have just recently activated within the last week or so probably about 500 medical offices. It's hard for me to completely tease it out because some of those are clinics, some of those are urgent treatment centers. Some are pediatricians' offices," said Dr. Steven Stack, Kentucky's public health commissioner.

One obstacle is the need to reduce waste of those doses. Once a Moderna vial is pierced, it's only good for 12 hours. Dr. Stack said discussions on the federal level have included an increased acceptance of some waste, if it means they can reach more people.

Story link: <https://www.wkyt.com/app/2021/05/07/doctors-offices-working-to-get-more-access-to-covid-19-vaccine/>

----- Kids and the Covid-19 vaccine -----

CNN: A pediatrician answers safety questions

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/05/health/teens-covid-vaccine-questions-answered-wellness/index.html>

Kentuckians preparing to vaccinate younger teens

WLEX story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/kentuckians-preparing-to-vaccinate-younger-teens>

Norton Children's Hospital pre-registering kids 12 and up for Pfizer vaccine

WDRB: https://www.wdrb.com/news/norton-childrens-hospital-pre-registering-kids-12-and-up-for-pfizer-vaccine/article_3b15719a-af43-11eb-99e1-176ea5b5bd19.html

EXPLAINER: How activists target CDC vaccine tracking system

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/555276854>

MedPage Today: "Death is the New Normal in India"

The average number of Covid-19 vaccines administered dipped below 2 million per day

(CNN) The seven-day average of Covid-19 vaccines administered in the United States has dipped below 2 million per day for the first time since early March -- a sign of the continued decline in demand for coronavirus immunizations. According to data published Saturday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the seven-day average of doses administered now sits at 1.98 million. The last time the daily average was below 2 million was March 2. It's an indicator that vaccinations are gradually slowing, even though the US remains far short of the levels of immunization [needed to reach herd immunity](#).

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/08/health/us-coronavirus-saturday/index.html>

Walmart Health to acquire telehealth provider MeMD

Learn more: <https://news360.com/article/555262101>

Pandemic gives boost as more states move to digital IDs

(AP) The card that millions of people use to prove their identity to everyone from police officers to liquor store owners may soon be a thing of the past as a growing number of states develop digital driver's licenses.

With the advent of digital wallets and boarding passes, people are relying more on their phones to prove their identity. At least five states have implemented a mobile driver's license program. Three others — Utah, Iowa and Florida — intend to launch programs by next year, with more expected to follow suit.

Mobile licenses will give people more privacy by allowing them to decide what personal information they share, state officials say. The licenses offer privacy control options that allow people to verify their age when purchasing alcohol or renting a car, while hiding other personal information like their address.

Having a mobile driver's license will allow people to update their license information remotely without having to go to a state's Department of Motor Vehicles or waiting for a new card in the mail, said Lee Howell, state relations manager at the American Automobile Association.

While most states with these programs recommend that users still carry their physical driver's license as a backup, some industry experts estimate that the coronavirus pandemic has sped up the widespread adoption of contactless identification methods by at least a decade.

Read more: <https://apnews.com/article/business-data-privacy-health-coronavirus-pandemic-technology-db2546ea45b7494f91b0ee00af4b3066>

Ransomware Cyber Attack Shuts Down U.S. Fuel Pipeline 'jugular'

(Reuters) Top U.S. fuel pipeline operator Colonial Pipeline shut its entire network, the source of nearly half of the U.S. East Coast's fuel supply, after a cyber attack on Friday that involved ransomware. The [incident](#) is one of the most disruptive digital ransom operations ever reported and has drawn attention to how vulnerable U.S. energy infrastructure is to hackers. A prolonged shutdown of the line would [cause prices to spike](#) at gasoline pumps ahead of peak summer driving season, a potential blow to U.S. consumers and the economy.

Colonial transports 2.5 million barrels per day of gasoline, and other fuels through 5,500 miles (8,850 km) of pipelines linking refiners on the Gulf Coast to the eastern and southern United States. It also serves some of the country's largest airports, including Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson Airport, the world's busiest by passenger traffic.

While the U.S. government investigation is in early stages, one former official and two industry sources said the hackers are likely a professional cybercriminal group.

The former official said investigators are looking at a group dubbed "DarkSide," known for deploying ransomware and extorting victims while avoiding targets in post-Soviet states. Ransomware is a type of malware designed to lock down systems by encrypting data and demanding payment to regain access.

Story link: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/colonial-pipeline-halts-all-pipeline-operations-after-cybersecurity-attack-2021-05-08/>

Freakonomics on Research into Legalized Weed

Work Comp Claims appears to be DOWN in states that have legalized it!

Listen to Podcast: <https://freakonomics.com/podcast/season-10-episode-36/>

To find out more, check out the podcasts from which this hour was drawn: "[Let's Be Blunt: Marijuana Is a Boon for Older Workers](#)" and No Stupid Question's "[Are Humans Smarter or Stupid Than We Used to Be?](#)"

The KHEREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact Preparedness@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.